

An Essay on

Haemoptysis

For the degree of M.D.

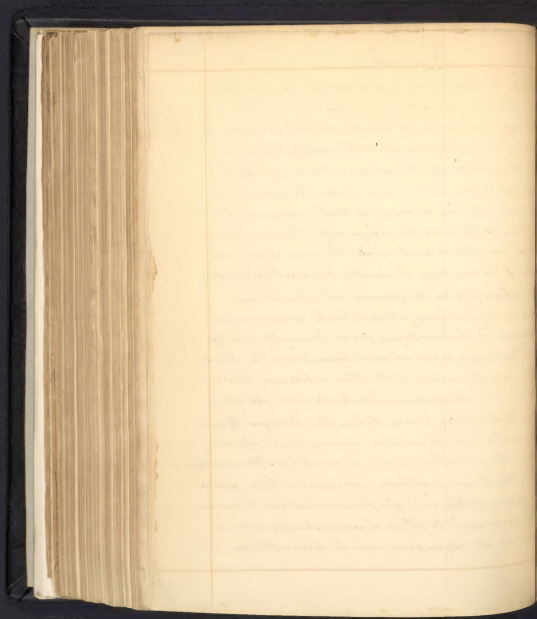
By William J. Scott of Virginia

Printed March 1825

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## <sup>71</sup>Haemoptysis

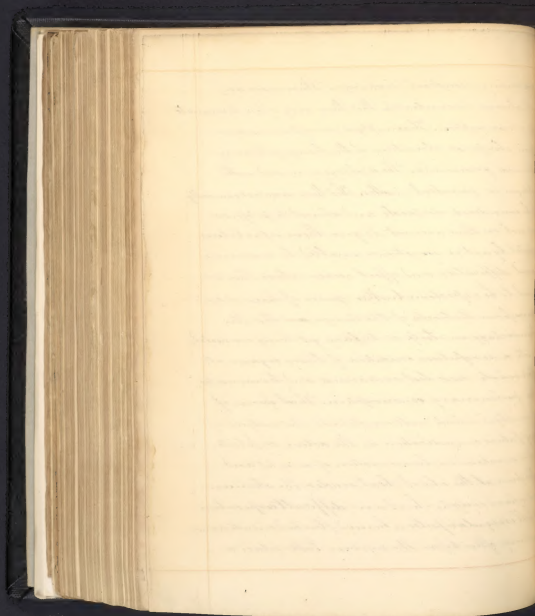
By this term we mean a discharge of blood either from the lungs trachea or fauces. To be enabled to adopt a proper course of treatment it is necessary that we should be acquainted with the causes and diagnostics of the disease. In a majority of cases where the blood comes from the fauces we can by inspection discover its real source and it is thrown up by mere hawking without cough, pain, oppression or febrile excitement. The same nearly may be said of haemorrhage from the trachea. It does not occur so frequently as the former, but when it does take place it is always attended with great danger. We distinguish haemoptysis from haematemesis, by the latter being always attended by vomiting. The blood is uniformly mixed with other substances that were in the stomach, and is thicker and blacker than that which comes from the lungs. Again the system sinks much sooner, from copious haematemesis than from haemoptysis. Haemorrhage from the lungs is always accompanied by coughing. The blood is frothy, and of a florid red colour. The causes that give origin to other haemorrhages, &c. in a greater or less degree give rise to haemoptysis.



but there are some that act specially in conducing to the  
production of this disease, such as a narrow contracted  
thorax, long neck, elevated shoulders, delicate habit and  
sanguineous temperament. This predisposition is  
excited into action by a variety of circumstances the  
more prominent of which are, loud and long speaking,  
frequent singing, bursts of laughter, violent paroxysms  
of anger, excessive exercise, vicissitudes of weather  
intemperance, and the suppression of some accustomed  
evacuation. There are several species of haemoptysis  
attended with different degrees of danger. First, the  
accidental rupture of a vessel, from a fall or blow.  
Here the danger is trifling if the vessel be small  
and there be no previous disease of the lungs.  
Obstruction may arise from excessive inflammation of  
the lungs, as acute pneumonia. This is not often  
dangerous. Haemoptysis arises from the translocation of a  
disease from some other part to the lungs, as in the  
suppression of the catamenial or haemorrhoidal fluxes.  
This is not a very serious circumstance, provided there  
be no uncommon susceptibility to pectoral diseases.  
Haemoptysis is sometimes the consequence of plethora  
or vast accumulations of blood in the lungs.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting in a cursive script, likely from the 18th or 19th century. The text is written in a single column on a page with horizontal ruling lines.]*

occasioning periodical discharges. These cases are  
not always irremediable tho' they very often terminate  
in consumption. Haemoptysis sometimes arises  
from abscess or ulcerations of the lungs following  
illured pneumonia. The discharge is mixed with  
phlegm or purulent matter. Tho' these cases are generally  
to be considered desperate and almost hopeless, we  
are not on this account to give them up. Nature  
assisted by art is sometimes enabled to overcome  
great difficulties, and effect cures where they are  
least to be expected. Another species of haemoptysis  
arises from tubercles of the lungs, and tho' the  
haemorrhage in itself is trifling, yet being connected  
with a scrofulous condition of these organs it  
often persists over but endeavours and terminates  
in pulmonary consumption. That species of  
haemoptysis which will constitute the subject of  
my future consideration is the active or febrile,  
which is ushered in by excitation of weight and  
oppression at the chest, heat under the sternum,  
dry hard cough, short and difficult respiration,  
a full irregular pulse, a tumid flushed countenance  
and very often before the eruption takes place a

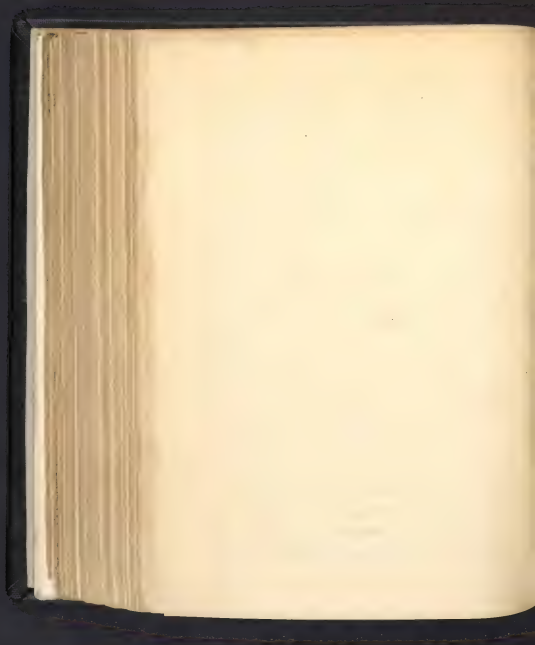




satish taste is perceived in the mouth. Occasionally  
the case puts on stronger marks of febrile action  
being attended by chills, pains in the back and  
tense flatulency, constipation, lassitude and debility.  
Immediately before the appearance of the blood, a degree  
of irritation is felt at the top of larynx. To relieve  
this a hawking is made which brings up a little  
blood of a florid colour, and somewhat frothy.  
The irritation returns and in like manner, more  
blood of the same kind is brought up, with  
some noise in the windpipe as of air passing  
through a fluid. Haemoptysis very often takes  
place during the night while the patient is asleep  
and free from all mental or corporeal agitation.  
This has never been satisfactorily accounted for.  
The phenomenon may I conceive be readily accounted  
for from the following considerations. When  
a person is in a natural sleep all parts of the  
body except the lungs are at rest. The contractions  
and relaxations of the muscles seem in a great  
degree necessary for carrying on an active circulation,  
these being absent it is very presumable that  
a languid circulation will follow. The



perhaps of a person asleep very plainly prove that  
the blood is confined in all the large vessels  
but, then during the day when he is awake  
The brain is another source from which I have  
suffered in endeavouring to explain this  
phenomenon on. I have not yet that during sleep  
the vessels of the brain are, considerably emptied,  
and that this condition is absolutely necessary  
for sleep to take place. Nothing more is wanting  
to account for the difficulty of falling asleep  
when there is unnatural determination  
of blood to the head. The delirium in this case  
which very much resembles sleep is accounted for  
in this way. It also affords an easy explanation  
of the *Modus Operandi* of opium in these  
cases. All these circumstances taken into consideration  
together with the absence of the sexual instinct  
the conclusion, that the lungs in their own  
or perhaps already diseased condition become a  
centre of fluxion. The superabundance of blood  
which is derived from its deficit in almost  
every other part of the body is directed with  
peculiar force to the lungs from their continual



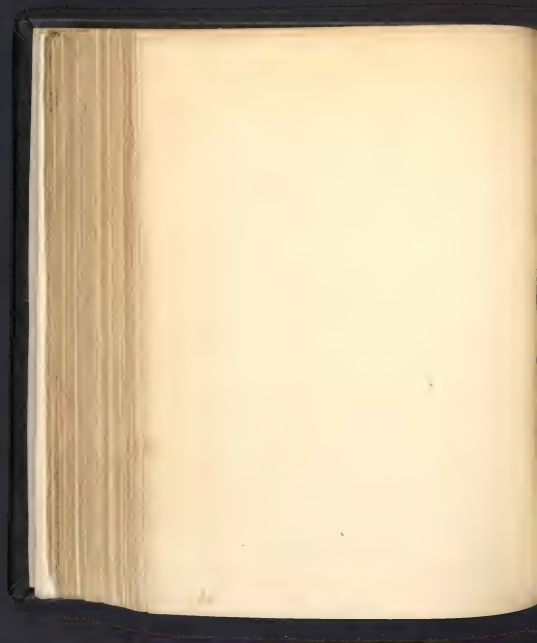
above their normal condition and position of  
the body. Thus giving rise to immense  
accumulations of blood in those organs which  
cause so much uneasiness and difficulty of  
respiration that the patient awakes jumps up  
in bed frightened with the apprehension of  
suffocation. By this action the blood is aroused  
from its inactivity and on its entrance to  
vessels from its overabundance or from profuse  
caused by the strong and hurried inspirations  
which the patient is certain to make, the  
already distended and overstrained vessels give way  
followed by all those phenomena which have  
already been described.

### Treatment

The most direct indication in the treatment of this  
is to put a stop to the hemorrhage. In this purpose venesection  
is the best remedy. The propriety of venesection in  
hemoptysis has been shown by a very celebrated  
practitioner of Scotland. Dr. Webster. His  
arguments tho' plausible and ingenious are by  
no means satisfactory. In fact the efficacy of  
the practice is in general reputation to his



objections. To derive full advantage, however,  
we should apply it boldly. The small and respect-  
ablelings recommended by some writers are,  
idle and even mischievous. They do but take  
without giving the smallest relief to the sufferer.  
It is preferable, all things considered, to use this  
spoon, from a large cup, with a nice relief  
in the spoon. These are an easy app. to take in inflamma-  
tion, and it is our duty to prevent it by proper  
use of the lancet. It is common, and very good, practice  
to give little salt at the top of the lower extremities  
of a table spoonfull. The mode of operation is not certainly  
known. It is supposed to be that the action, which  
exists in and about the joint, is, by continuous  
application extended down the trachea, and by its  
stiff operation set ranges the mouth of the blood,  
spoke. It is not, however, in this, and it is not, in fact,  
which exists in the blood, and it is not, in fact,  
injection. With the use of a spoon, the blood, however,  
with application, have been made to effuse, just  
of the body but more, particularly, in the lungs, and  
axilla. Suprast of the body is more susceptible to  
the impression of heat than the axilla.





to the state with a character as unique as its conduct  
as a Nation should be apparent within hours  
in part of commerce in the case of a disease  
and should not be lost then. By a multiplication  
wrapping up the body in wet cloths has been recommended.  
This is an obsolete practice and should not be  
resorted to, until colder weather has been  
unexpectably tried. This was the practice, action  
of the late Dr. B. The Saccharum Vaherni  
has been justly praised in the treatment of the disease.  
It was first used by some of the older writers of  
the continent, but was, in doing so, not  
made on account of the recommendation of Sir  
G. Baker. It felt to be left by the late Dr. B.  
to dissipate those false and idle objections to it  
and to show it as a safe and efficacious remedy  
in the treatment of various types of fever. It  
can be used in various ways, it is a very interesting  
employment, and is of great value in the treatment of the pulse.  
It is a very little at a time, and is not  
until it is not, when it is even more effectively reduced.  
It must be a long action, and is not a great  
in the blood and is then shown in the air



is generally given in so small a size, it may with  
advantage be increased. There is  
an important remedy but belongs exclusively to the  
rational and not to the casual, with the view of inspiring  
a national action, and preventing the recurrence  
of the bad message. I regret much and fear much  
but has not doubt been abused by its too general  
employment. The minds of our citizens seem  
now to be made up as to the propriety of establishing  
the school, and it is not necessary that we  
should be so much of particular conversation. We  
establish for the most part, we have not much  
interest in them. I should want to hasten. I can  
then have some where to do it. I shall be  
much surprised to see the artist. In the mind  
we are now in, a long time elapses before  
the public is at all affected, and it is not in the  
least of the nature of the thing, which is commercial  
and sometimes is a perversion of the school  
and is not appropriate in the more, the shape of  
the demand. But there are some cases in which  
it is a display of imaginative and intellectual  
the cases in which the school is useful are



master has slight notion of the teaching  
except, said in the modern French with a quick  
and sometimes active pulse with great mobility  
and elasticity of the system. The latter is then  
unwilling to be a slave to the rules of the  
school that we should substitute digests  
for the law. It is better to say that the  
law is the natural function of a  
system and important effects. Emotions are introduced  
in the treatment of this disease, which is severely  
governed by the Robinson of Dublin and the  
highly recommended by him they have been  
for a long time said to be necessary to the  
unfavourable reports of Spunkton. Emotions  
however, are sometimes subject to something  
harm or change from the mind. Spunkton is  
sometimes has often effected it, and may even  
sometimes effect the same thing, by a slightly  
increasing first operation. Instances are not wanting  
to justify the speculation. The Chapman shows that in  
the most alarming case he ever saw, the discharge  
was entirely arrested by the exhibition of doses  
of the pills which put it back. Although



primarily assigned, on some as better than get  
the music provided in a contrapuntal language,  
and should not be resorted to until all other  
considerations are exhausted, and are more  
especially of a large import for their rupture,  
but still there is only a slight measure of relief  
arising from the fact that it is a musical device to  
remove it from the scope of the composition  
prominently, especially the measure to the  
primary over the body of music and to remove  
consideration, unless the structure of the  
the system, and before the anxiety enough  
to be necessary and to maintain the difficulty  
of respiration. The music last is perhaps  
the best article for the purpose, but more  
particularly as a new sound in the general  
character. The subject of the music has been highly  
recommended for its simplicity and its ten.  
This measure has not been extensively enough  
employed to decide upon its comparative merits.  
It has been used in many of far less doubtful characters  
it has been used in many of our most diversified  
muses, and always with beneficial results.





It should be administered as a tea & keep up a  
light degree of nausea for the space of from  
12 to 24 hours. The best method of giving it is to  
combine it with small quantities of opium  
and give it at such intervals that each dose  
may suppress the effect of the previous one.  
The salts of the neutral salts are especially  
futile haemorrhages the nitras potasse is  
particularly good. A decoction is more efficacious  
than a powder of an inflammatory than then it is especially  
well suited to the case under consideration. It  
is very beneficial not in arresting the haemorrhage  
by its astringency but by its power in restoring  
accident action. It is one of the best auxiliaries  
to venesection. Nitras sulphuric is sometimes  
given alone but its efficacy is vastly improved  
by combining it with the astringents.  
Then we wish its drastic effect we must  
accompany it with large quantities of diluent  
drinks. The mineral acids are given with  
the same intention as the preceding article.  
They are combined more abundant use than  
in most cases as much as there is the disease.



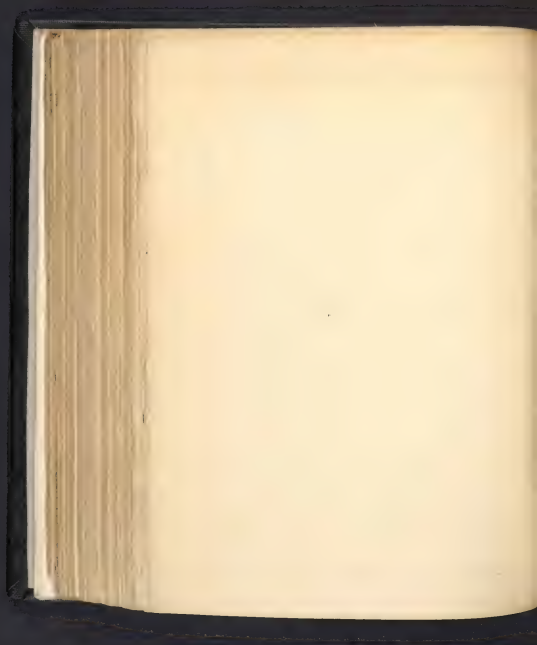
The sulphuric is prepared in these cases  
for the other. The rest has appeared  
the best of success in the treatment of it  
some the narcotic has been used but the  
only one that seems to be the best is  
opium, or rather can be made to answer  
all the indications that the others are capable  
of fulfilling. Arsenic was first employed  
in this disease in the German wars  
afterwards it was used in England they  
were provided with the power of administering  
and to their supposed sedative effect to reduce  
arterial action. The narcotics are applicable  
only to those cases where there is great irritation  
associated with cerebral action keeps up the  
brain, & so on. After we have stopped the flow  
of blood by these remedies the cerebral action  
is very much diminished, a powerful protractor  
and sedative or stimulation is required. The  
large dose is most applicable to sedative  
applications. There is however, great diversity of  
opinion as to the proper place of applications.  
Some would certainly use advantage to them



when applied to the extremities. Others, refer  
them to the back of the neck. But evidently  
we are all other cases unless we wish them  
to act by reflexion apply them immediately  
over the seat of the disease. In fact, the efficacy  
of blisters is always proportional to their proximity  
to the seat of the disease. And the elevation of  
blisters in this disease is a very assistance  
yet we cannot dispense with them. It often happens  
that even after this after exhausting our best remedies,  
urgently calls for the application of a blister.  
This is the course that has generally been pursued  
in the management of this disease but that  
it should have full effect it is necessary that  
we should attend to other circumstances. As  
soon as we are called to a case we should direct  
the patient to be put to bed with his shoulders  
and head elevated and his extremities  
extended. He should never be permitted to sit up  
himself up in bed. This posture acts very  
powerfully in exciting the haemorrhage.  
The chamber is to be kept cool for free ventilation.  
Company must be entirely excluded and the

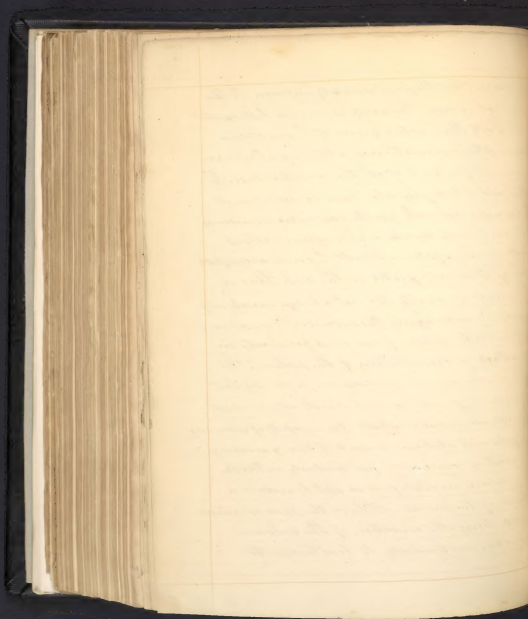


patient be directed to take as little as possible.  
During the progress of the disease the discharges  
consist of small quantities of almost acid drinks  
especially acidulated. The patient must not on any  
account be permitted to leave his room, with  
other place or cold food. The house is must  
be kept cool by the refrigerating process.  
Haemoptysis sometimes instead of being smothered  
by fever and high arterial action, requires the  
contrary or as it has been called profuse. These  
cases are generally connected with a sanguinous  
condition of the lungs. Whether this be the  
original condition or not, it is equally proper  
to prescribe all diaphoretic measures. Our object  
here is to keep up the tone of the system and for  
this purpose we resort to the different tonics.  
Of these the peruvian bark is to be preferred.  
It was a favourite remedy of Dr Rush. It is commonly  
given alone but its power is very much increased  
by combining with the preparations of iron  
and particularly the sulphated tincture.  
The mineral the acetate of lead were favourite  
remedies of Dr Cullen in this form of





the diseases but they are certainly inferior to the mineral acids. The acids are much better suited to the full than active forms of haemoptysis. Haemoptysis sometimes attends pulmonary consumption, and of all the remedies here, the nitric acid is to be preferred. These remedies should be accompanied with gentle exercise, a nourishing diet, and such drinks as strengthen without heating the system. Malt liquors are preferred and of these old porter is the best. This is the course generally tho' not always successfully pursued in managing this disease. It sometimes fail entirely, either from some peculiarity in the attack or constitution of the patient. The disease is often excited from exposure to the slightest cause and to guard against it with any prospect of success we must inculcate the necessity of observing a regular and abstemious mode of living, avoiding very exciting cause, and particularly catarrhs than which nothing is so apt to induce a return of the disease. Where the predisposition is very strong the condition of the pulse and lungs are particularly to be attended to.



Any unusual activity in the blood vessels, or  
pain or oppression about the chest are symptoms  
demanding our immediate attention. We should  
direct small bleedings and a low diet, with an  
occasional laxative, and where not absolutely  
objected to a perpetual blister which is sometimes  
of more benefit than everything else in obstinate  
cases. The alterative use of mercury should  
not be overlooked. When connected with a  
tubercular condition of the lungs emetics are  
exceedingly useful as preventives of the  
haemorrhage. Cases of haemoptys do sometimes occur  
where the lungs are so very much diseased that our best  
plans of treatment prove altogether ineffectual.

Here as a last resource we should advise the patient  
to make a voyage by sea to some warmer climate.  
Cases of recovery from it are sufficiently numerous  
and well authenticated to justify us in the measure.

